

Message Text

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ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /012 W

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R 181232Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828

INFO US DESPATCH AGENT, NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEHRAN 12260

OPR/ST PASS TO US DESPATCH AGENT BALTIMORE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ATRN, AFSP, ASUP, IR

SUB: SHIPPING AND SUPPLIES

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT EX AMERICAN FLAG SHIPPING COMPANY "MEDSPAN" HAS BEEN RE-ORGANIZED AND IS NOW CALLED "STAR LINE INC." THEY HAVE PRESENTLY LEASED THE EX MEDSPAN VESSEL PUERTO RICO AND INTEND TO INITIATE A 16 DAY NON-STOP SERVICE FROM BALTIMORE TO BANDAR SHAHPOUR VIA THE SUEZ CANAL. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE A VERBAL AGREEMENT WITH GOI, THEY WILL ENJOY PREFERRED BERTHING AS BEFORE, MEANING SHIP COMES DIRECTLY TO DOCK ON A GIVEN TIME AND DATE, OFF LOADS AND ON LOADS WITHIN 16 HOURS AND IMMEDIATELY DEPARTS FOR BALTIMORE. REPRESENTATIVE, MR. LOU DAVIDSON, FURTHER STATES THAT RATES BOTH WAYS WILL REMAIN SAME AS WITH MEDSPAN SERVICE OFFERED. SAME FACILITIES, PERSONNEL ETC ARE TO BE UTILIZED. FIRST SAILING THIS SERVICE SCHEDULED DEPART BALTIMORE ON JANUARY 31, 1976. "STARLINE" REGISTERED OFFICE IS 25 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, TEL: 212-425-5555, MR. ROBY KLEINE.

2. MEDSPAN SERVICE IN PAST WAS EXTREMELY EFFICIENT BOTH INCOMING AND OUTGOING DUE MOSTLY TO PREFERRED BERTHING. POST HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE STARLINES WILL NOT OFFER THE SAME.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESENT SERVICE VIA AMERICAN EXPORT THROUGH TURKEY IS TAKING FROM 30 TO 40 DAYS FROM EAST COAST TO TEHRAN, WHICH IS EXCELLENT BY ANY OTHER STANDARD KNOWN OF AT THIS TIME, POST
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BELIEVES DEPT SHOULD EXPLORE THOROUGHLY THE POSSIBILITY OF TUI-

LIZING STARLINES FACILITIES.

4. POST HAS ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE SHIPMENT OF OUTGOING HHE BY CONSOLIDATION INTO CONTAINER FOR TRANSPORT THRU ISTANBUL WITH AMERICAN EXPORTS LOCAL AGENT, BUT HIS CONTINUING LACKADASICAL, NO INTEREST, NO COOPERATION ATTITUDE MAKE IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO REACH ANY SORT OF CONSTRUCTIVE WORKING AGREEMENT. WE ARE PRESENTLY ARRANGING FOR SEVERAL SHIPMENTS OF HHE TO BE SENT VIA OUR LOCAL FORWARDER, SEAMANPAK, TO EUROPE OVERLAND FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT TO EAST COAST BY AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
HELMS

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